

ABSTRACT

5 An extruded hollow thermoplastic board, which includes a pair of
flat and parallel sheets spaced apart and interconnected by extending
ribs, generally has a plurality of depression bands in the areas where the
flat sheets and extending ribs are joined. The bands, which negatively
10 affect the surface flatness, are especially apparent for crystalline
thermoplastic materials. A hollow thermoplastic board, which
effectively reduces the depth of the depression bands by inclusion of
locationally fixed gas pockets in the rib area during production, is
disclosed in the present invention. The hollow thermoplastic board of
15 the present invention substantially enhances the surface smoothness and
is highly beneficial to applications such as printing, lamination and
graphic art. The present invention also provides a method for production
of the hollow thermoplastic boards of smooth surfaces.